

lier's administrative abilities clearly recognized and honorably acknowledged. On more than one occasion the French Government, conscious of his worth, urged his acceptance of the episcopal dignity. He was offered the very important See of Rennes and afterwards that of Nantes, but his accustomed humility and love of religious retirement interposed and induced him to refuse the proffered honours. He even persuaded Cardinal Guibert to intercede for him with the ecclesiastical authorities in Rome, that he might not be forced to enter upon a career which would permanently disturb the tranquillity and regularity of his religious life.

As we have already seen, Father Soullier was by no means a stranger either in Canada or in the United States. There is, however, one of his visits which deserves a special mention in our article. It is the trip he made to this country one year after his elevation to the dignity of Superior General. He has the honor, for it is indeed an honor, of being the first Oblate Superior General that ever set foot in the New World. The object of his visit was to obtain a personal acquaintance with his subjects in this country, and to impart to them whatever consolation his kind and fatherly presence could bestow. Widespread and enthusiastic was the welcome he received. His tour through the country was like the triumphal march of some great hero. Everywhere, from the populous East to the sparsely settled West, his presence was hailed with grand rejoicing. Whole towns and villages raised aloft their flags to bid him welcome, and tastefully decorated their houses in his honor. Bands played their merriest airs, and ad-

dresses, worded in different tongues, but all expressive of the same cordial greeting, were presented. Many readers of *THE OWL* must well remember the magnificent reception he was given at the University during his short stay in Canada's prosperous Capital. That the illustrious visitor was deeply touched by the enthusiastic welcome which greeted him on all sides, is evidenced by the following brief extract from a circular addressed by him to the members of the Oblate Order, shortly after his return to Europe.

"What am I to say of the grand manifestations that have everywhere marked the passage of your Superior General? It would seem as if the people whom I visited had awaited that occasion in order to give free scope to their admiration of and their thankfulness towards our humble Institute, to which they acknowledge themselves indebted for the double benefit of religious and secular education."

Since his elevation to the responsible position of Superior General, Father Soullier addressed two very important circulars to the members of the Order over which he had charge. One of them gives very practical advice on the art of preaching, the other is a learned and comprehensive treatise on the studies of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. In the latter valuable work, which was issued less than a year ago, the author lays very clearly before the members of his Order, the great necessity of keeping pace with the times by a thorough study of sacred science. He recommends very strongly the works of Saint Thomas and Saint Liguori, as well as the writings of the ancient Fathers. This little gem of